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the beginner's path somewhat more confused, but the care and clearness with which the distinctions between the requirements of the statute and of the common law are noted reduces that confusion to a minimum. The text-book, which is practically a volume of notes on the cases, is of course especially valuable to one studying the case-book, and will therefore prove helpful to students reviewing the subject, and to those studying law without the aid of an instructor. More such treatises to accompany case-books would fulfil a distinct want.

LAW OF REAL PROPERTY. By Charles T. Boone. Second Edition. San Francisco: Bancroft-Whitney Co. 1901. 3 vols. pp. xxvii, 612; 632; xiii, 652. 16mo.

This short work in three volumes is an attempt to correlate under appropriate headings the diverse decisions in the law of real property. It cannot well be defined as a digest, nor yet as a treatise. The writer does not attempt to draw any conclusions nor to state any underlying principles. He simply puts forward in a clear and convenient form what the American law is as he understands it. For instance, where decisions on any given point are inconsistent, the writer makes no attempt to say which is the more correct, he simply refers to the decisions, and lets the reader draw his own inferences. For this reason the work is not to be regarded as a text-book containing valuable discussions of much mooted points. The learned in the law of real property would, perhaps, seldom have occasion to refer to it. As a hasty reference manual, however, to important decisions, this little work should be of great service to the modern practising lawyer. It will act as a convenient guide to the authorities, where a text-book would give too personal a view of the law, and where an encyclopedia would prove cumbersome. The value of the book rests largely in its clearness and conciseness. There can be no mistaking what the author means. He is seldom ambiguous, and his exposition of his own interpretation of the questions decided, cleared as it is of obsolete forms or doctrines, is certainly a relief to the seeker of authorities. The work is distinctly modern, both in treatment and in the cases cited, and may be recommended.

FALSTAFF AND EQUITY: AN INTERPRETATION. By Charles E. Phelps. Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin & Co. 1901. pp. xvi, 201. 12mo.

There is certainly an art in letting the mind dwell upon a phrase, until it dreams the hidden meaning, especially where the phrase is blind, and the reading public are busy. The above work, by Judge Phelps, is an explanation of Falstaff's remark, "An the Prince and Poins be not two arrant cowards there's no equity stirring." According to the learned author the pregnant phrase, "There's no equity stirring," is "surcharged with a quadruplex meaning," there being one significance "for posterity and for all time," two for the immediate audience, and still another for Shakespeare's family and friends. In order to show this the learned commentator cites cases illustrating the struggle between the law and equity, so stirring it would seem at the time Shakespeare wrote. As the

development of a theme the argument is ingenious and interesting. The style of the work may be suggested by the following lines, "Shakespeare was a poet, but he was a poet who meant business. He made plays for money, and he made them to go," forcible, perhaps, but hardly as delicate as might be expected in connection with such a subtle interpretation.

PROBATE REPORTS ANNOTATED. By George A. Clement. Vol. V. New York: Baker, Voorhis & Co. 1901. pp. xxxix, 774. 8vo.

It is always to the advantage of a practising lawyer to have at his command recent decisions upon questions with which he has to deal. In view, however, of the great number of cases that are decided each year, it is very difficult to discover such cases as will be of service. It is, of course, comparatively simple to find the case in one jurisdiction, but it is very difficult to keep in touch with decisions by other courts. The book at hand aims to be of service to lawyers who are specially interested in probate business by assisting them in their search for recent cases upon probate law. The editor has chosen such of the recent decisions throughout the country as seem to deal with interesting or important points in the law of wills. He does not purport to give all the cases upon this topic, but only such as seem to deal with questions which it will be to the interest of probate lawyers at large to have at hand.

There is no doubt that such a work, if well done and accompanied by frequent and well-made digests, will be of great value. The usefulness of the present work, however, is greatly diminished by a very faulty index. This is made up of selections from head-notes grouped under very general heads. As there are no subdivisions or catch phrases to help, it is necessary to read each head-note before its bearing is known. That it is of so little assistance in finding whatever of value there is in the text is the more unfortunate as the cases seem well chosen and serviceable.

The editor seems to have another purpose equally meritorious. Many of the cases are followed by extended notes upon the subject involved in the principal case. These notes contain short statements of the status of the law, together with references to the more important cases on the subject. These citations are of great assistance in starting upon a thorough investigation of the subject, and put the lawyer upon the track of much that is important. The notes seem to be uniformly well chosen, and will doubtless be very serviceable to one who has occasion often to deal with probate matters.

THE COMMEMORATION OF JOHN MARSHALL AT BOSTON AND CAMBRIDGE. By Marquis F. Dickinson. Boston: Little, Brown & Co. 1901. pp. xvii, 120. 8vo.

This book collects and puts into permanent form the addresses made in and about Boston at the recent celebration in honor of John Marshall. It contains the exercises before the Massachusetts Supreme Court, Professor Thayer's address in Cambridge, and the proceedings before the Boston Bar Association. The speeches are all well worth preserving, and the workmanship of the printer, always in good taste, is suitable to